

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 2, line 11 and ending at page 3, line 3.

Fig. 8A is a plan view illustrating the basic structure of an ordinary stage device, and Fig. 8B is a sectional view of the same. The stage device shown in Figs. 8A and 8B includes a moving table 1; an X linear-motor movable element 2 for driving the moving table 1 along the X direction; an X linear-motor stator 3 for driving the moving table 1 along the X direction; a Y linear-motor movable element 4 for driving the moving table 1 along the Y direction; a Y linear-motor stator 5 for driving the moving table 1 along the Y direction; a stage base 6, the upper surface of which serves as a guide surface for the moving table 1; a hydrostatic bearing 7 for levitating the moving table 1 a prescribed amount above the stage base 6; an X movable guide 8 for moving the moving table 1 along the X direction; a Y movable guide 9 for moving the moving table 1 along the Y direction; an X stationary guide 10 for guiding the X movable guide 8; and a Y stationary guide 11 for guiding the Y movable guide 9.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 24, line 21 and ending at page 25, line 13.

The generation of the restoration force with regard to displacement of the X guide 9 along the direction of the Y axis and displacement of the Y guide 10 along the direction of the X axis is at as set forth in the first embodiment. This arrangement is such that when X sliders 11a, 11b move along the X direction, the X pressurizing magnets 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d generate an attractive force only along the direction of the Z axis if movement falls within a predetermined stroke range (i.e., the stroke through which the moving table 1 moves along the X

direction). If movement exceeds this range, however, the transverse attractive force of the X pressurizing magnets 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d acts as a force to restore movement to the limits of the stroke range owing to the grooves 17a, 17b provided in the stage base 6. The same holds true for the Y guide 10. As a result, it is possible to dispense with a mechanical stopper such as a shock absorber provided in the prior art in order to limit operation that exceeds the stroke.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 26, line 21 and ending at page 27, line 1.

By virtue of this arrangement, regulation of the moving table 1 in the direction of rotation about the Z axis is performed by the transverse pad 21a. As a result, the natural frequency is high. Another advantage is that since the transverse restoration force of the pressurizing magnets is used to regulate ~~of~~ the Y guide 10 along the direction of the X axis, an excessive constraining force is not applied.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 27, line 11 and ending at line 19.

In accordance with the first to seventh embodiments as described above, displacement in a direction parallel to the guide surface of a moving body can be limited by limiting an area of the guide surface that opposes a pressurizing magnet by means of such grooves provided in the guide. As a result, it is possible to realize a bearing assembly that does not require stationary guides, occupies little space, is low in cost and easy to assemble.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract starting at page 35, line 2 and ending at line 16.

A stage base ~~comprises~~ includes a magnetic body and has a slider guide surface defined by a groove. A portion of the slider that opposes the guide surface is provided with an air pad, whereby a hydrostatic bearing is formed. The slider is further provided with a pressurizing magnet for applying a magnetic attractive force between itself and the guide surface in a direction perpendicular to the guide surface. Displacement of the slider in a direction orthogonal to the travelling direction thereof is limited to a predetermined range using a magnetic attractive force, which is parallel to the guide surface, produced when at least a part of the pressurizing magnet deviates from the guide surface. ~~A direct-acting guide is thus rendered unnecessary.~~